TALK OF POLEGATS

And the Climax Comes in the Poker Game at Old Man Greenlaw's.

By DAVID A. CURTIS.

CONSIDERABLE time elapsed since there had been any serious physical encounter, or rather any that was accounted serious in old man Greenlaw's little saloon canese City, and Joe Bassett, being a man who delighted in strife more resuly then in any other of the pleasor of life that were available in that scality, was depressed in spirit ac-

His mental outlook was peculiar, to added, turning to the stranger.

"Well, that d'pends," said the stranger. "I wa'n't thinkin' o' fightin' long, was you'?" he added, turning to the stranger.

"Well, that d'pends," said the stranger. "I wa'n't thinkin' o' fightin' at all, but pears like they is a fightin' long.

to to chewin' somebody's ear."

From in Arkanese City, however,
ears were not at that time customarily cars were not at that time customarily cheese unless under prevention, and the citizens of that place, being acceptabled with Mr. Bassett's ideogrammer, were chary of provoking him, so that he found small meet in life then there were no strangers there.

Not everybody knew, however, what of the observe they sometimes al-lowed the boat to get away before they went back on board. Being thus stranded, as it were, they

seing thus stranoed, as it were, they would go into old man Greenlaw's saless, and doings would ensue. One such wayfarer came in at the particular time when Mr. Bassett was suffering from depression of spirit, as was said, and almost immediately paved the way toward occurrences by the way toward occurrences by what seemed an incautious remark. He had invited the campany to drink, first, according to the prevailing custom of that part of the country, and so had that part of the country, and so had that part of the country, and so had the part of the country, and so had the part of the country. ed a tentative footing from

ble for to emell bad."

"Is that so?" said old man Greenferently. "I hain't took no-

in't had no s'picion o' nothin' like that, not afo' I done come saho' r hain't." responded the stranger premptly, "but mebbe that's what I done took notice of. Mought-be a pole-cat, but what's been did to \$? "Pears

omepin' shameful."
"They don't nobody round these parts 'Tain't reckoned none too tealthy fo' nobody to git thataway an polecate ain't no 'xception. Mebbe yo' all mought do well if yo' was to make a note o' that thar. We uns and noways p'tic'ler 'bout how we that no apparent regard to the mone-tary value attaching to the

ain't nobody hyar gives a damn where climax developed. "is yo' done come from, but th'ain't It came from Bassett presuming too no difficulty 'bout onderstandin' why far on the stranger's insouciance. No-

some alleviation at least. Having tasted the old man's liquor already he realized the inevitable consequence of STIRS UP STRIFE taking more of it, not being used to it, but even that did not terrify him. He drank with the others, but he took only

very small drink.

Meantime the old man exchanged meaning looks with Jim Blaisdell and Jake Winterbottom, who were of the party, and Jake, catching his meaning, said, as he set his glass back, "Mebbe it mought be worth while fo' to put off that game till a'ter Joe an' the gent is done tooken their exercise, Jim."

But Jim said: "No. We uns c'n start

it goin' an' they c'n set in later if they likes. They's done been c'nsidable valyable time lost a'ready, an' we c'n play threehanded till they're through, 'thouten the old man'll set in fo' a spell just to be sociable, an' make it fo'-handed."

But the eld man said: "I reckon I won't play to-night. Three on ye 'll be enough fo' to start in, an' mo'n likely Joe an' the gent 'll be through by the time things gits 'xcitin'. Yo' all wa'n't thinkin' o' fightin' long, was you'?" he

him one day: "Joe ain't never what for it, an' I reckon this gent'il have to have into a fight. 'Pears like th'ain't be satisfied, first off. 'Pears like it'd be mo' nachul like fo' to set in at the satisfied, and the satisfied of the set in at the game afo' mixin'. Likely they'll be me' to fight about if it's poker what's

swine to be played."
"That's spoke like a man," exclaimed old man Greenlaw with great satisfac-tion "Joe 'pears to be some het up, but I reckon he ain't in no gre't hurry.

Mr. Bassett was not much given to speech, but it was evident from his manner that he was not greatly pleased. He had been willing enough ne consequence people sometimes got to forego his favorite amusement for if the boats and if they were not a time when the old man had set 'em up, but the greater delay involved in playing poker was little to his taste. He was not, however, entirely desti-tute of fine feelings and perceiving the possibility of pecuniary gain in the postponement he yielded, albeit the did

so ungraciously.
"Have it yo' own way," he said, picking up his coat, he went with the

established a tentative footing from est in the proceedings, but to be will-which he might have advanced to a tag enough for anything that might faverable position, but no. "This yer town 'pears to be kyind without appearing to do so, as was o' dead," he observed, with a supercollege air. "I sh'd say what if they disus air. "I sh'd say what if they want to begin a game, but they were unable to form want somepin' did tol'able soon it'd definite conclusions. On the one hand he looked entirely capable of looking after himself in almost any emergency. tice of no p'tic'iar perfume recent, not as has been said already, but on the any yo' all come in, I didn't. Yo' all other hand there was a listless in hain't run foul o' no polecat lately. his bearing that indicated an utter other hand there was a listless: lack of relish for his surroundings. It was as if in fishing for bluefish they had hooked a cod. They saw no pros-pect of rousing him to excitement, no

matter how the game might go. Nevertheless he took his sent at the body must ha' agreevated it when the old man demanded \$100 as saw that he did not by any means exwith no polecats," replied the haust his available capital when he menkey with no polecats, replied the handed over the money. There was old man sternly, 'not 'thouten they gits handed over the money. There was therefore a possibility that his very indifference might prove advantageous to them. And they were all actuated

"Well, 'tain't nothin' to me how yo' were using, bluffing one another out treats 'em." said the stranger with rageously when the stranger refused lofty indifference, "on'y I'd a heap to stay and pretending little caution druther not come asho' if I'd a knowed in their play even when he joined in the contest. It could not be said that he seemed greatly stirred by these tactics but they noted with satisfaction. lofty indifference, "only I'd a heap to stay and pretending little caution druther not osme asho' if I'd a knowed in their play even when he joined in gen'ly 'low 'em to stay round.

"To' all 'pears to have a mighty po' tion that he played, whenever he did pinion o' yo' kin," observed Bassett in play, with as little thought as they of

AT ROYAL AUCTION

The great mass of players never look beyond their own interests as they see game:

them in their own cards. They never stop to ask themselves anything beyond the question, "Am I willing to play this bend on my bid?" and many of them do not even give that sufficient thought. How many persons ask themselves what their partners will lead if the player on the left gets the declaration, or what their partner will expect them to lead if the declaration is on the right? Still more, bow many healtate to make a bid until they have considered what their

But when the partner has made a bid there is no longer any average about it. The two tricks should be a certainty if he has been the first one to speak, because if there were not two tricks in his hand his bid was not justified, no matter what he held. He was not forced to say anything on the first round. Secondary hids are another matter. hide are another matter.



of done come, 'cordin' to what yo yo' done come, 'cordin' to what yo had ever criticised Mr. Hassett perparedness point of view this bid sunsound. If his partner can win two counters was beyond cavil, but in a shade too much of recklessness in his institute of the partner gots the decrease of the partner gots the partner gots the decrease of the partner gots the decrease of the partner gots the decrease of the partner gots the par Z dealt and bid a spade. From the

Getting no echo from his partner fa either suit he made his two acces and then led another heart, which Z had to

trump.

Now A must make two more trumps, so that all Z gets out of his own hand and his partner's is five trump tricks, which is all his hand was good for in the first place. Down for 400 and simple hands.

Preparedness for Defensive as Important as Move for Offensive.

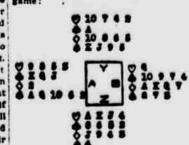
When Z passes without a bid on the first round it does not matter whether the bids two spades over A's no trumper on the second round or not. He has left his partner under no misapprehension as to his defensive strength, as he has denied having two tricks by passing the original bid.

If he bids two spades on the second noted having two tricks by passing the original bid.

If he bids two spades on the second round a will naturally go two no trumps and will make 20 and 40, but that is a long way from winning 415 on the hand. The student should observe that Z's bid is unsound for two out of the three his not prepared either to assist his partner or to defend himself.

The great mass of piayers never look beyond their own interests as the look beyond their own interests as the look beyond their own interests as the look.

Here is another example from another Here is another example from another



something else. Dummy led the trump and Y won it, forcing out dummy's last trump with the third heart lead. This leaves Y with another sure trick in trumps, which set the contract for 100 points.

Some might think it a pity that B could not show the diamonds and induce A to go no trumps, but there is nothing in that declaration for A, weak

nothing in that deciaration for A, weak as the hands are against him.

I would open with the hearts and Z would return the spade. If A puts on the ace to clear the clubs, I goes on with the hearts. Four heart tricks save with the hearts. Four heart tricks are the game, with the king of spades yet to hear from and the diamond suit stopped. Four clubs, three diamonds and a spade seems to be the limit for A, at

establishes the nine for A, but in that case Y would still save the game by making the spade trick while he was in, so that three hearts, a spade and a club would held A down to two odd.

PROBLEMS FOR 'SUN READERS TO SOLVE

player having two sure tricks over an adversary if the adversary has to lead the suit, and the play being interfered with by the partner's having to win the first of those tricks with a card which he might have got rid of earlier in the play. THE SUN published a hand not long ago in which an important match hinged on this play.

Here is the distribution in the problem.



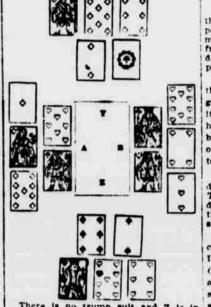
more, bow many heestate to make a bid until they have considered what their own partner will think they have for a construction. The state of the proparation of the think of the bed are not a preparation for data they be prepared to the first of the sack are not worth a hill of the sack are not w as Z will lead a third spade at once.

Several thought they could do it by giving a heart trick at once; but this allows B to discard the diamond, and all Y and Z can get out of it is two tricks, as A will return the heart and make

Old Lx

G2=(L+G1)x

Here is a rather clever little composi-tion in which there is an extra trick which leaves three equations to discover that might easily escape the attention of four unknown quantities. of those early attempts to make a no trumper by leaving out a suit;





Those who get the critical move will be agreeably surprised at the ending.

PROBLEM NO. 204-CHECKERS.

By H. D. Lyman. Black.

Black to play and win. Hack to play and win.

The distribution of the pieces is: Black
men on 14 and 23; king on 30. White
man on 31; king on 9.

Several clever attempts at solving this problem were sent to THE SUN, but they did not quite reach the exact facts. The best analysis of the situation is from Charles D. Shuldham, which fol-

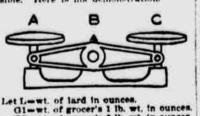
lows:

The point that the inspector made against the grocer, which was quite sufficient for his purpose, perhaps, was that the weights must be false, although the grocer insisted that it was only the scales that were out of true, which was

scales that were out of true, which was not his fault.

One of three propositions must be the correct explanation: 1. The scales are true and the weights false. 2. The scales are false and the weights true.

3. Both are false. The point is that unless it is the second it is the weights that are wrong, and the second condition is shown by Mr. Shuldham to be impossible. Here is his demonstration. Here is his demonstration.



If scales are true and weights false

L=17 oz. G1=17 oz. G2=34 oz. The scales cannot be false and the 16 - LX 32 - (16+L)x 16+L-34x 32-34x

17 (8) 32-21.X-(16+7.)x and 11-17x

CHESS FOR PLAYER, LOVER AND STUDENT

Lasker and Johner Win at Chicago and Copenhagen.

Edward Lasker, champion of the Metropolitan Chees League of this city, late champion of the City of London Chess Club and champion of Chicago, has won another title, namely, that of champion of the Western Chess Association, by winning the championship tourney of that organization, a contest with was begun at the Kenwood Chess Chub of Chicago on August 14 and considuded last Wednesday. There were twenty entries, the names of which were given in these columns last Sunday. Lasker secured the first prise with a total of 16 ½ games won and 2½ games lost. Jackson W. Showalter of Georgetown, Ky., the champion of last year, was placed second with a score of 16 to 3. H. Hahlboom secured the third prise with 16 ½ points to 6 ½, J. T. Beckner of Winchester, Ky., and Norman T. Whitaker of Washington, D. C., by virtue of their scores of 18 ½ points won to 5 ½ points lost divided the remaining two prizes.

Secretary Harry F. Lee reports that the tournament was very successfully conducted and ne unpleasant incident marred the proceedings from start to finish. At the business meeting of the association it was decided to hold next year's championship tourney at Lexington, Ky. The following officers were elected at the meeting: J. T. Beckner of Winchester, president; Harry F. Lee of Chicago, secretary.

Word comes from Copenhagen that the international tourney played in that city last month was won by Paul Johner, a former champion of the Manhattan Chess Club and honorary member of that organization. He carried away the first prise by winning five games out of a possible seven. Dr. Krause of Denmark, Loewenberg of Sweden and Marchand of Holland tied for the remaining three prises with a score of 4½ points each. The other competitors were: Swenson, Sweden, 3; Nyholm, Sweden, 3¼; Jacobson, Sweden, and Giersing, Denmark, 2 points each. The promising Dutch player Marchand only just missed the winning of the first prise by losing his last game. An interesting game from this contest will appear next week.

As was generally expected, only slow progress was made in the summer handicap tourney of the Empire City Chess Club, in spite of the fact that forty-one players are engaged in this contest. The match between P. Lipschusts and W. Thompson, however, was concluded, the former winning the bout by three games

PROBLEM NO. STL. BY L. B. SALETINE

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

the end of the play one of the op-ponents of the declarer has a card too many, which she says she picked up from the dummy by mistake.

When the card was picked up from the dummy is not stated. If at the beginning, of or during the play, how is it that no one noticed it? If from the hand that afterward became dummy, but before the play, the deal is void, as one player has too many cards and one one player has too many cards and one remedy.

Each player is supposed to count his cards and see to it that he has thirteen.

If he is short the card must be found (if the others have their right number). and if it is found on the floor when he

The extractor was the control to the part of the part

Auction Bridge. S. H. L. says: Near stand and that if he passes the dealer seemed of the play one of the oponents of the declarer has a card too not take his partner out of the double. Under the laws the double cannot be changed, even if it was a slip of the in the tongue; therefore the declaration is two hearts doubled, but there is no penalty

Poker. P. B. McT. asks if there is 31 Papers any such thing as a misdeal in poker. dispute the decision recently given in the sum of that there can be no new deal if a player is a card short and that card is found on the floor. Why should the deal stand?

from three cards taken at random from that pack.

T. M. E. says: A bets that he can meld the trump marriage when spades are trumps, with the jack of diamonds, all at one time for 100. If this meld in the books? Playing two hand.

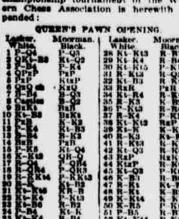
what is trumps, so that spades being trumps does not increase its value. It of what he bid. If A was the bidder and is given in Foster's Hoyle, page 181 of made three, which put him out, it does he latest edition.

R. J. says: A is drawing to an ace and a king. B bets, as there are seven in the game, the chances against him are greater than if there were only two men in. Is this true?

The chances that the cards wanted are waste of time to play more than six still in the pack with only two men

PROBLEM NO. 414. BY PRANK JANET.





BIRD'S OPENING. P-KK4 P-Kt6 Kt-QB3 BrKt

QUEEN'S COUNTER GAMBIT | Record | R (a) If K-Kt : then Kt-Os. mate QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

SOLUTION TO NO 52

nitch for two when he wants three to go.

they counted ahead of 10's.

That is usually a matter of agreement The number of men in the game or before the game begins. Some like to drawing cards has nothing to do with it. play the nine, while others think it a

playing are just the same as the chances against any of the seven men having drawn them.

Duchre. Mrs. T. says: We have ten tables every week and three prizes. If A has won 12 games, B and C 11, and D the king on the table has not been marked. Pinochie. L. E. Q. says. Playing two

White-Beven pieces a selection of games, played in the enampionship tournament of the ern Chess Association is herewi

Both players were utterly exhausted agreed to call the game drawn QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

1. Kt.-B4, K.-B4: 2 Q Q4 &c 1. Kt.-B4, K.-B4: 2 Q Q5 ch. A 1. Kt.-B4, Q-B: 2 Q Q1 ch. &c 1. Kt.-B4, Q-B: 2 Q Q1 ch. &c 1. Kt.-B4, Q-B: 2 QQ qc 1. Kt.-B4, Q-R: 2 Q-Q4 ch. &c 1. Kt.-B4, Kt.-B4: 2 Q-Q4 ch. &c 1. Kt.-B4 any other: 2 Q-Q4 ch. &c BOLUTION TO NO 511

1. R-E12. &c. |Cook": 1. P-Rs (Q). &c wice on three treys and is satisfied that he cannot win the pot unless he gets a fourth trey or matches his edd card for a full house. As he is the last man to draw and there are only three cards left, B bets him \$10 it is \$1 to 1 that he does not get the fourth trey on a one card draw. Are these the odds?

Not quite. There are only \$7 unknown cards, and A is going to draw one of them. That makes it only \$6 to 1 against his getting the one he wants, as there is only one in the \$7 that will suit him. B must have forgotten the cards already in A's hand. It would be \$1 to 1 against drawing a named trey, such as the trey of spades, from a full pack, or from three cards taken at random from CORRESPONDENCE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

J. P. Poster New York City-Posttion received. Shall receive an early attention.

the players skin down to six or play the nine?

A has won 12 games, B and C 11, and D only 10, we make B and C play off the tie for second after A and D have taken their prises. Is this not correct?

No, because D did not win anything.
The three prises are for the three best scores. These are made by A. B and C. First prize goes to A. and then B and C play off for the choice of second and third. Whichever wins takes which tries are absolute the same class. How marriage and source are play off for the choice of second and third. Whichever wins takes which tries are absolute the same class of units, thas A. Pinochle is in Class B. The laws of trumps was used as part of a superior tries the pleases and the loop takes the

prize she pleases and the town takes the other. D is not in it at all.

Serve D. G. McG. saye: A set the worth only 40.

called grand pinochie, the pand and cannot claim privilege beyond the two monds, which is worth 80 wants only one and makes low, while a gets high, fack and game. B bets he count and scores all he makes, regardless